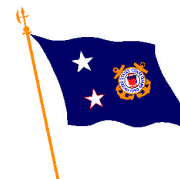




REAR ADMIRAL PAUL J. PLUTA
Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety
and Environmental Protection
United States Coast Guard



Rear Admiral Paul J. Pluta assumed the duties of Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC in May 2001. In that capacity, he directs national and international regulatory programs for commercial vessel safety, port safety and security, waterways management, and marine environmental protection. RADM Pluta came to Coast Guard Headquarters after serving as the Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District and Commander of Maritime Defense Command Eight, headquartered in New Orleans. As District Commander, RADM Pluta was responsible for U.S. Coast Guard operations covering 26 states, over 1,200 miles of coastline, and 10,300 miles of inland waterways from Florida to Mexico.



Rear Admiral Paul J. Pluta is a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He holds an M.S.E. degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the University of Michigan. He first served as an assistant engineering officer aboard the cutters CHINCOTEAGUE & MINNETONKA. Following these assignments, he attended postgraduate training and was then assigned to staff engineering tours at the Eighth District Merchant Marine Technical (MMT) Office in New Orleans, LA, and in the MMT Division at Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC, where he specialized in plan review of commercial vessels for service in petrochemical, cargo, and passenger carriage. He returned to operations ashore, as Chief of the Inspection Department at Marine Safety Office, Baltimore, MD. RADM Pluta was then assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters as Chief, Engineering Branch and Chief, Compliance & Enforcement Branch, Merchant Vessel Inspection Division, where he represented U.S. maritime interests at the International Maritime Organization.

From July 1988 - July 1991, he served as Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Office, Wilmington, NC, where his command played a key role in support of OPERATION DESERT STORM. RADM Pluta assumed command of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Training Center (RTC), Yorktown, VA, in August 1991, home of the Marine Safety and other schools, where he led the first military-to-military assessment team to Kazakhstan to help this former Soviet republic form its own Maritime Force, patterned after the U.S. Coast Guard. In June 1994, RADM Pluta was reassigned as Chief of Staff, Ninth Coast Guard District, Cleveland, OH, where he was responsible for the day-to-day Coast Guard activities throughout the entire Great Lakes region, including the training and deployment of the Coast Guard Port Security Units to Haiti during OPERATION UPHOLD DEMOCRACY and negotiation of regional bilateral mutual support agreements with the Government of Canada.

In July 1996, RADM Pluta achieved flag rank and was appointed Director, Office of Intelligence and Security in the Department of Transportation. He served as the Secretary of Transportation's principal liaison to the Intelligence Community and held policy responsibility for transportation and national security issues in all modes of transportation.

Personal decorations: Legion of Merit (four awards), Meritorious Service Medal, and two Coast Guard Commendation Medals